

Remarks:

Claims 1 and 3-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 6, 7, and 12-15 have been cancelled. Claims 16-21 are new. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112:

Claims 3, 6, 7, and 12-15 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter the applicant regards as the invention.

More specifically, the Examiner states that “[c]laim 3 lacks clear antecedent to ‘its end’ as two are now claimed.” The Applicants have amended claim 3 to replace “its end on the front side of the vehicle” with “the first end”. This replacement is supported by paragraph [0030] of the specification and in Figures 1 and 5-7.

The Examiner also states that “[c]laim 12 is incorrect based on the as filed disclosure.” The Examiner further states that “[t]he figure 8 embodiment, extending over the width of the vehicle with a single bracket, has the same disclosed connection to the main top support 23 as the dual brackets” and “[t]his is inferred from the disclosure of pages 5 and 7, the latter having no distinct pivotal attachment mechanism.” Additionally, the Examiner states that “...the pivot points of 26 are not at the same height open or closed, being toggle mechanisms.” The Applicants have cancelled claim 12. Accordingly, this rejection is moot and should be withdrawn. Claims 6, 7, and 13-15 depend from claim 12 and the rejection should also be withdrawn.

Claims 12, 6, 7, and 13-15 are rejected under 35 USC§112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner states that the claims contain subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor(s) had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. As stated above, claims 12, 6, 7, and 13-15 have been cancelled. Therefore, this rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1, 4, 5, and 8-11 are allowed. The Examiner also states that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

As discussed above, claim 3 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Additionally, claim 3 has been amended to be an independent claim that includes all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Therefore, the Applicants believe that independent claim 3 is allowable.

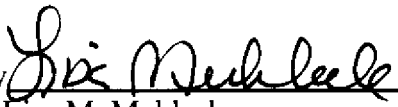
Claims 16-21 are new and depend from allowable claim 3. Claims 16-21 include all of the recited limitations of allowed claims 4, 5, and 8-11, respectively. Accordingly, claims 16-21 are allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 4, 5, and 8-11 are allowable.

Conclusion

All rejections having been addressed, it is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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